What is claimed is:

1. A medical device, comprising:

a tubular member having a proximal end region and a distal end region;

a radiopaque marker band disposed over the tubular member, the marker band having an outer surface and an inner surface with one or more openings through the outer surface of the marker band; and

an outer layer disposed over the outer surface of the marker band, wherein the outer layer extends from the outer surface of the marker band, into the openings in the marker band.

2. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the openings are defined by generally circular holes formed in the marker band.

3. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the openings are defined by generally oval holes formed in the marker band.

4. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the marker band includes two or more slots.

5. The medical device of claim 4, wherein the slots are aligned on opposite sides of the marker band.

6. The medical device of claim 4, wherein on opposite sides of the marker band the slots are offset.

7. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the outer layer extends through the openings and under a portion of the inner surface of the marker band.

8. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the marker band includes a proximal end region and a distal end region, and wherein the slots are defined by one or more slits in the proximal end region, the distal end region, or both.

9. The medical device of claim 8, wherein the slits are in the proximal end region and the distal end region, and wherein the slits in the proximal end region are aligned with the slits in the distal end region.

10. The medical device of claim 8, wherein the slits are in the proximal end region and the distal end region, and wherein the slits in the proximal end region are staggered relative to the slits in the distal end region.

11. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the tubular member includes an outer surface, and wherein the outer surface is defined by a fluorocarbon polymer.

12. A medical device, comprising:

an elongate core member having a proximal end region and a distal end region;

a radiopaque marker band disposed over the core member, the marker band having one or more slits defined therein, the marker band having an inner surface and an outer surface; and

a coating disposed over the outer surface marker band, wherein the coating extends from the outer surface of the marker band.

13. The medical device of claim 12, wherein the core member forms a catheter shaft.

14. The medical device of claim 12, wherein the core member forms a guidewire.

15. The medical device of claim 12, wherein the coating extends through the slit of the marker band and along a portion of the inner surface of the marker band.

16. A radiopaque marker band adapted for being secured to an intravascular medical device, comprising:

a generally cylindrical body section, the body section having a first slot and a second slot defined therein; and

wherein the first slot and the second slot are axially aligned on opposing sides of body section.

17. The marker band of claim 16, wherein the body section includes a proximal end region and a distal end region, and wherein the body section includes one or more slits in the proximal end region, the distal end region, or both.

18. The marker band of claim 17, wherein the slits are defined in the proximal end region and the distal end region, and wherein the slits in the proximal end region are aligned with the slits in the distal end region.

19. The medical device of claim 17, wherein the slits are defined in the proximal end region and the distal end region, and wherein the slits in the proximal end region are staggered relative to the slits in the distal end region.

20. A radiopaque marker band adapted for being secured to an intravascular medical device, comprising:

a generally cylindrical body section having a first end and a second end;

one or more longitudinal deflections defined in the first end; and

one or more longitudinal deflections defined in the second end.

21. The marker band of claim 20, wherein the body section defines a plurality of slots defined therein.

22. A method for manufacturing a medical device, comprising the steps of:

providing an elongate core member;

disposing a marker band over the core member, the marker band having one or more slots defined therein, a top surface, and a bottom surface;

disposing a coating over the core member and the marker band; and

wherein the step of disposing a coating over the core member and the marker band includes disposing the coating on the top surface of the marker band, within the slots, and along the bottom surface of the marker band between the marker band and the core member.

23. A guide catheter comprising:

an inner tubular member having a proximal region and a distal region;

a radiopaque marker band disposed over a portion of the inner tubular member at a selected location in the distal region, the radiopaque marker having an inner surface and an outer surface with at least one opening extending from the inner surface to the outer surface; and

an outer layer extending over the marker band and at least a portion of the inner tubular member, wherein a portion of the outer layer extends through the at least one opening and is in contact with the inner tubular member.

24. The guide catheter of claim 23, wherein the outer layer includes multiple segments of polymeric material having desired property variations.

25. The guide catheter of claim 23, wherein the portion of the outer layer extending through the at least one hole forms a bond to the inner tubular member.